

Sexual Purity and Integrity

“Sex is a gift that can be unwrapped for the first time only once” -Dr. William Cutrer

“God is always forgiving, but we aren’t always as forgiving” -Everett Stenhouse

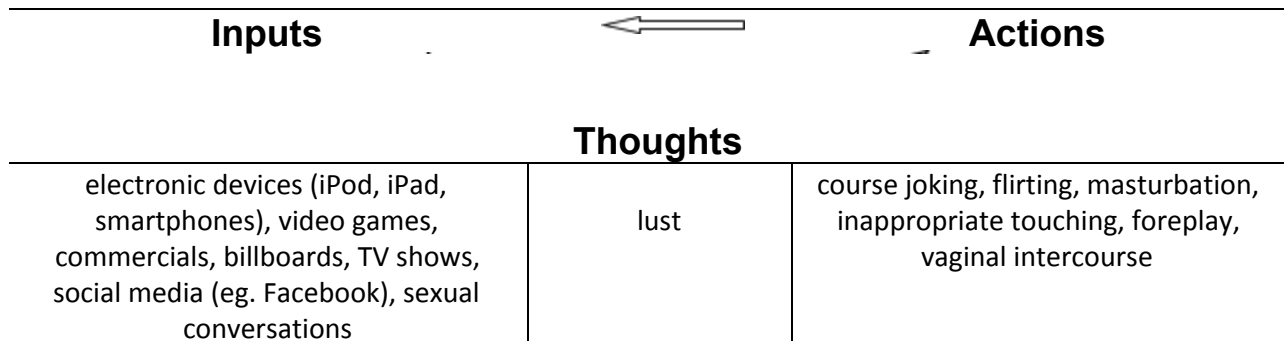
Key Verses:

- 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 – Sexual desire are not bad, it is a gift from God for marriage
- 1 Corinthians 10:32 – Do not cause anyone to stumble
- 1 Corinthians 10:23 – “Permissible” actions are not always “beneficial”
- 2 Timothy 2:22 – Flee impurity, pursue righteousness
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 – Our “thought-life” must be addressed
- 1 Timothy 4:12 – Our goal is to set an example

Key Facts:

- 27 million households of individuals living alone, 25 million households of families in the US
- More abuse occurs in cohabitation than in marriage
- 70% divorce rate among couples who live together before marriage
- Promise Keeper’s survey: 50% of men viewed pornography within the last week
- Predictors sexual satisfaction in marriage (in women)
 - Married, monogamous, deeply religious, protestant

Exposing the Flow of Impurity:



Definition of Purity: Fleeing any input, thought or action that elicits a desire that is not fulfilled by or directed toward your spouse.

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 – “Flee immorality”
- Immorality: *Porneia* – also translated as “fornication” and involves a wide range of sexual practices

The Senses:

- Sight
 - Men are primarily stimulated visually
 - Implications for men: more prone to sin in this area
 - Implications for women: 1) more effort needed to dress modestly 2) more often struggle with appearance issues
- Touch
 - Question for you: If she was married, would her husband be concerned?
 - What do your actions communicate to others, or your future spouse?
 - Violating boundaries before marriage = violating boundaries after marriage
 - Women must communicate disapproval, men must listen
- Hearing
 - Conversations may increase the risk of impurity
 - Sexual conversation → thoughts → actions
 - Regardless of the senses, the time of day is important: Nothing good usually happens after 10 PM

The Plan:

- Set rules
 - “Nothing below the neck, under a blanket, or lying down. It’s just too hard otherwise.”
 - Both the man and the woman must take responsibility
 - Women: Don’t advertise what is not for sale
 - Men: Love involves not putting someone in a compromising situation
 - Understand condemnation versus conviction. (Romans 8:1; John 16:8)
- Remove expectations
 - A woman should be pursued *for her* and not what can be exchanged physically
 - Practice sowing and reaping
- Made hard decisions
 - Purity is more important than convenience
 - Purity is more vital than false security in relationship
- Be tenaciously accountable
 - Good idea: Ask your pastor, small group leader for their thoughts before dating
 - These people have YOUR best interests in mind!
 - Ask your small group to ask YOU the tough questions
- Focus on fun activities, friendship, and preparation

Illustration:

Resources utilized: Cutrer W. Sexual Intimacy in Marriage. 2007; Evans J. The Fig Leaf Conspiracy. 2008.

- The fireplace: Sexual activity, like fire, is beautiful in a fireplace (marriage), but is a crisis when outside of it (before marriage)!